SIMPLIFIED SPELLING BOARD
CIRCULAR No. 15, November 28, 1907

THREE HUNDRED WORDS SPELLED IN TWO OR MORE WAYS

The anomalies and perversities of English spelling are obvious enough, and call loudly for regulation. But the very fact that some spellings are anomalous and perverse implies that the other spellings are more or less regular, and this is so. The majority of English words are spelled according to ascertainable analogies, and are thus fairly regular. This is true especially of literary words of more than one syllable, of Latin or Greek origin. Thus, words like *aliment, eminent, evident, prominent, protestant, relevant, significant, memorial, familiar, ability, conformity, heredity, indicative, public, relic, inherit, merit, spirit,* etc., *astronomy, biology, monopoly, politic, tropical,* etc., are fairly fonetic as to the short vowels which are concerned in these words. They would not present many difficulties to the learner, if he were not confused by other words with other analogies. The same is true of a great many monosyllables not ending in silent *e,* as *bat, bet, bit, but, bad, bed, bid, bud, ban, bin, bun, cam, dam, slam, slap, slat, clash, clock, self, help, strong, strength,* etc., but here again a host of other monosyllables suggesting other analogies (*plaid, saith, bread, been, flood, come,* etc.) rush in to badger and confuse the unhappy learner.

The rules and analogies which underlie English spelling can, however, be ascertained and stated, and the exceptions can then be clearly seen. When the rules and analogies are understood, any intelligent person can see for himself when a particular spelling deviates from them. Thus, any one can see that *butt, nett, sett,* are out of accord with the rule establisht by the innumerable words like *cut, let, met,* etc., that *centre, metre, fibre,* etc., are out of accord with the rule establisht by *counter, number, diameter,* etc., and that *favour, honour, labour,* etc., are out of accord with the rule establisht by *error, major, actor,* etc. So *dropt, snapt, stept, prest,* etc., tho now less common than *dropped, snapped, stepped, pressed,* etc., are more in accord with the prevailing use of single *p* or *s* before a *t* sound, as in *apt, host, best,* etc., and in the common spelling of some preterits, as *crept, lost, swept,* etc.

The common forms *dropped, stepped, pressed,* etc., are in a great part alterations of former spellings with *-t.* The alterations were made to establish a visible but fallacious uniformity of inflection. If the inflections all ended in a visible *-ed,* they were said to be "regular." Forms like *dropt, stept, stopt, crost, drest, kist, prest,* etc., abound in the original editions of Spenser,

Shakespeare, Jonson, Milton, Cowley, Dryden, Pope, Prior, Goldsmith, Burns, Scott, Byron, and are common in recent writers, as Tennyson, Landor, Swinburne, Lowell. In current editions they are often wiped out, but they must needs appear in all editions in which the attempt is made to give a correct text.

Present publishers often permit or require their printers to "adopt" some "preferred" dictionary as the sole rule of spelling for all books publisht by the house, and to alter the text of the standard authors, when a new edition is made, in order to suit this "preference." This is not a good practise. It conceals the real spelling and pronunciation of the author himself, or of his time. It tends to suppress the truth, to stereotype bad forms as well as good, and to prevent that reasonable change toward order and simplicity which was allowed to work freely before the nineteenth century. It tends also to obliterate those marks of time and country, and those touches of individual genius, which distinguish one writer from an other, and thus to detract from the variety and richness of English literature. Moreover, it often leads to perversions of the text itself. No one can trust a text so treated.

Happily, however, there are many hundred words in which this process of stereotyping irregular or anomalous forms has not prevailed, and in which a choice still lies open between a simpler or a normal form, and a less simple or an anomalous form.

The following list contains three hundred common words now spelled in two or more ways. The list could be made to contain 600 or 900. The number is unimportant. The point is in the appeal to the reader. In all these cases you must choose. Will you choose the forms that are simple, regular, and convenient, or the forms that are not simple, not regular, and not convenient? Will you declare your approval of the simpler forms and of the principle and practise which they manifest?

Certain large classes of words spelled in two or more ways are omitted from the present list. Such are the chemical words in *-ide* or *-id*, and *-ine* or *-in*, and the forms involving *-ll-* or *-l-*, or *-tt-* or *-t-*, before suffixes, as *travelled* or *traveled*, *traveller* or *traveler*, *travelling* or *traveling*, etc., *rivetted* or *riveted*, *rivetter* or *riveter*, etc. Of course the simpler form is to be preferred.

The rules given apply, in this paper, only to the three hundred words. But any one who chooses to do so, may properly extend the implied rule to all the words in a given class.

The classes included in this list are about 40. The principal classes, arranged in the order of the letters or affixes concerned, are as follows:

1. Words spelled with ae, æ or e. Rule: Choose e. Ex.: *Anesthetic, chimera, era, esthetic, ether, medieval, paleontology*, etc.

2. Words spelled with -dge-ment or -dg-ment. Rule: Omit -e. Ex.: *Abridgment, acknowledgment, judgment, lodgment.*

3. Words spelled with -ed or -t, the preceding single consonant being doubled before -ed (*-pped, -ssed*) and left single before -t (*-pt, -st*). Rule: Choose -t in all cases. Ex.: *Dipt, dript, dropt, stept, stopt, blest, prest, mist, blusht, washt*, etc.

4. Words spelled with -ence or -ense (Latin *-ensa*). Rule: Choose -ense. Ex.: *Defense, offense, pretense.* Also *license.*

5. Words spelled with -ette or -et. Rule: Omit -te. Ex. *Coquet, epaulet, etiquet, omelet, quartet, quintet, septet, sextet*, etc.

6. Words spelled with gh or f. Rule: Choose f. Ex.: *Draft* for *draught;* like *dwarf* for earlier *dwargh, dwergh.*

7. Words spelled with -gh, or without. (1) -ough or -ow. Rule: Choose -ow. Ex.: *Plow.* (2) -ough or -o. Rule: Choose -o. Ex.: *Altho, tho, thoro, -boro* (in place names).

8. Words with the Greek verb-suffix spelled -ise or -ize. Rule: Choose -ize. Ex.: *Civilize, criticize, exorcize*, etc.

9. Words spelled with unstrest -ite or -it. Rule: Omit e. Ex.: *Deposit, preterit;* like *habit, orbit, spirit, visit*, etc.

10. Words spelled with -ll or -l (-ill or -il). Rule: Choose -l. Ex.: *Distil, fulfil, instil;* like *until, compel, impel*, etc.

11. Words spelled with -ll- or -l- before -ful or -ness. Rule: Omit one l. Ex.: *Skilful, wilful, dulness, fulness.*

12. Words spelled with -mme or -m. Rule: Omit -me. Ex.: *Gram, program;* like *diagram, epigram, monogram*, etc.

13. Words spelled with oe, œ, or e. Rule: Choose e. Ex.: *Ecumenical, esophagus, phenix, subpena;* like *economy, penal*, etc.

14. Words spelled with -our or -or. Rule: Choose -or. Ex.: *Ardor, candor, clamor, color, favor, flavor, honor, humor, labor, rumor, tumor, valor, vigor*, etc.; also, *arbor, harbor, neighbor*, etc.; in conformity with the now invariable *error, horror, torpor*, etc., *actor, author, creator, governor*, etc., previously simplified from *-our.*

15. Words spelled with ph or f. Rule: Choose f. Ex.: *Fantasm, fantasy, fantom, sulfate, sulfur;* like *fancy, frantic, frenzy, coffer, coffin*, etc., which originally had *ph.*

16. Words spelled -rr or -r. Rule: Omit one r. Ex.: *Bur, pur;* like *cur, fur, blur, slur, spur, car, far, fir, stir*, etc.

17. Words spelled with -re or -er. Rule: Choose -er. Ex.: *Accouter, center, fiber, meter, miter, niter, saltpeter, scepter, sepulcher, somber, specter, theater;* like *counter, diameter, number*, etc.

18. Words spelled with s or z (in the root). Rule: Choose z. Ex.: *Apprize, assize, comprize, enterprize, raze, surprize, teazel;* like *braze, craze, haze, maze, breeze, freeze, prize, size,* etc., of the same class. *Rize, wize, rouze,* etc., were also once common.

19. Words spelled with s- or sc- (with an erroneous c). Rule: Omit c. Ex.: *Simitar, sissors, sithe.*

20. Words spelled with or without silent -ue. Rule: Omit -ue. Ex.: *Catalog, decalog, demagog, pedagog, prolog.*

The following "List of common words spelled in two or more ways," was first publisht by the Simplified Spelling Board in one of its circulars (No. 2, March 21, 1906) as a bare list, in two columns, the preferred forms in the first column. In an other circular (No. 5, June 20, 1906) the List was printed with the mention of standard authorities for the simpler forms. It is now again printed, with added authorities.

The simpler form is given first, in blackfaced type; then the older or superseded form, within square brackets. Then follow the authorities for the simpler form, being either the initial letters of the dictionaries or societies which prefer or recommend it, or allow it as an alternativ form (here markt with a superior figure ²); or else the names of standard authors in whose works it is found. The forms have been taken directly from original editions, or from facsimile or critical reprints, and exact references can be furnisht in every case. The references are many thousand, and can be increast without end. The names of the authors are cited in the order of their dates, or of the dates of the works quoted. Each name cited represents from one or two to fifty or more quotations from that author for the form in question.

The dictionaries named are those now most current in the United States: Webster (1864, 1890, 1900), the Century (1889–1891), and the Standard (1894, 1903). The dictionaries current in Great Britain (beside the American ones), namely, the Imperial, Stormonth's, Nuttall's, Chambers's, etc., agree with the American dictionaries, except in a few isolated words, and in a few small classes, namely, about twenty-five of the several hundred words in *-or*, where British use favors *-our* (*honour*, etc.); about fifteen of the several thousand words in *-er*, where British use favors *-re* (*centre*, etc.); and about fifty words like *traveled, riveted,* etc., where British use favors a doubled consonant (*travelled, rivetted,* etc.). The Oxford English Dictionary (1884–1907–) is not included in the comparison, because it is not yet completed; but the parts publisht supply ample evidence of the gradual development

and improvement of English spelling, and ample reasons for a more systematic continuation of the process.

This List has been approved and adopted by many thousand persons, whose number is daily increasing. The simpler spellings are also appearing in many periodicals, and are taught in many schools. The next editions of the dictionaries are certain to recognize these facts.

W = Webster's Dictionary (1864, 1890, 1900).
C = Century Dictionary (1889–1891).
S = Standard Dictionary (1894), with supplement.
P = Philological Societies, that is, the American Philological Association and the (British) Philological Society (1881, 1886).
NEA = The National Educational Association (the Twelve Words, 1898).

Nearly all the three hundred simpler spellings here mentioned, and three thousand more, were recommended by the Philological Societies. The fact is here noted only in a few special cases. For all the simple forms here supported by dictionary authority only, as approved or allowed, the usage of innumerable authors can be cited. Most of those recommended by the Philological Societies are also old establisht forms, with abundant literary and scholarly authority.

abridgment [abridgement] Shakespeare, Cowley, Addison, W C S
accouter [accoutre] Butler, Phillips, W C² S
accurst [accursed] Phaer, Spenser, Sylvester, Shakespeare, Pope, Watts, Tennyson, J. G. Holland, W² C² S
acknowledgment [acknowledgement] Mill, Macaulay, W C S
addrest [addressed] Spenser, Sylvester, Shakespeare, Jonson, Chapman, Milton, Hobbes, Tate, Pope, Watts, Collins, Falconer, Lamb, Bulwer, Calverley, Fitzgerald, C² S²
adz [adze] W C S
affixt [affixed] Spenser, Ogilby, P
altho [although] Bunyan, George Washington, Stephens, P NEA (*altho'*: J. Phillips, Pope, Burns, Tennyson).
anapest [anapaest, anapæst] W C S
anemia [anaemia, anæmia] C² S
anesthesia [anaesthesia, anæsthesia] W² C² S
anesthetic [anaesthetic, anæsthetic] W² C² S
antipyrin [antipyrine] C S
antitoxin [antitoxine] C S
apothem [apophthegm]. *Apothegm*: Camden, Milton, Scott
apprize [apprise] Walpole, Goldsmith, Miss Edgeworth, C²
arbor [arbour] Spenser, Milton, W C S (*arber*: Spenser, etc.)
archeology [archaeology, archæology] Gale, Skeat, W² C² S
ardor [ardour] Jonson, Milton, Howell, Prior, Young, Blackstone, Robertson, Mitford, W C S
armor [armour] Lodge, Coke, Milton, Falconer, W C S
artizan [artisan] Marlowe, Addison, Bloomfield, Mill, C² P
assize [assise] Bailey, Walker, W C S

ax [axe] Pope, Lye, Young, Hume, Goldsmith, Johnson, W C S
bans [banns] Gay
bark [barque] Spenser, Holland, Shakespeare, Milton, Hobbes, Pope, Defoe, Falconer, Franklin, Cowper, Marryat, W C S
behavior [behaviour] Puttenham, Fuller, Mitford, W C S
blest [blessed, *one syllable*] Sidney, Shakespeare, Sylvester, Bunyan, Watts, Collins, Goldsmith, Franklin, Bloomfield, Crabbe, Wordsworth, Rogers, Southey, Hood, Praed, W² C² S²
blusht [blushed] Spenser, Lodge, Shakespeare, Cowley, Burns
brazen [brasen] Shakespeare, Hooker, Sylvester, Bailey, W C S
brazier [brasier] Walker, W C S
bun [bunn] Skelton, Florio, Lamb, W C S
bur [burr] Shakespeare, Milton, Crabbe, Tennyson, W C S
caliber [calibre] Bailey, Walker, Reid, W C S
caliper [calliper] Bailey, W C S
candor [candour] Jonson, T. Herbert, Prior, Defoe, W C S
carest [caressed] Burns, P
catalog [catalogue] All Souls College, Oxford (1587), Minsheu (1599), American Library Association, Library of Congress, etc., P S, NEA (Earlier *catelog, cathaloge, catholog*, etc.)
catechize [catechise] Shakespeare, Holland, Cudworth, W² C S
center [centre] Lodge, Sylvester, Shakespeare, Jonson, Selden, Bacon, Minsheu (1617), Cotgrave, Donne, Milton, Wotton, Fuller, Prior, Pope, Berkeley, Goldsmith, Burns, W C S
chapt [chapped] Florio, Sylvester, Walker (1775), P
check [cheque, checque] Johnson, Foote, W C S
checker [chequer] Sylvester, Johnson, Hall, Shakespeare, W C S
chimera [chimaera, chimæra] Milton, Addison, Lamb, W C S
civilize [civilise] Cotgrave, Fuller, Addison, Johnson, W C S
clamor [clamour] Shakespeare, Heylyn, Franklin, Mitford, W C S
clangor [clangour] Shakespeare, Dryden, Gibbon, Burns, W C S
clapt [clapped] Spenser, Lodge, Bible (1611), Shakespeare, Dekker, Cotgrave, Fuller, Butler, Dampier, Addison, Swift, Defoe, Bloomfield, Lamb, Tennyson, Lowell, Reade, C² S²
claspt [clasped] Stanyhurst, Watts, Goldsmith, Tennyson, C² S²
clipt [clipped] Bible (1611), Shakespeare, Fuller, Cowley, Cowper, Bloomfield, Shelley, Lamb, Tennyson, Lowell, C² S²
clue [clew] Drayton, Cotgrave, Falconer, Burke, W C S
coeval [coaeval, coæval] Dryden, Locke, Young, Lowell, W C S
color [colour] Prior, Pennant, Stephens, W C S
colter [coulter] Bailey, Walker, W C S
commixt [commixed] T. Watson, Niccols, P S²
comprest [compressed] Chapman, Drayton, Gray, Tennyson

comprize [comprise] Spenser, Holland, Henry More, Blackstone
confest [confessed] Shakespeare, Raleigh, Milton, Sir T. Herbert, Cowley, Dryden, Butler, Addison, Prior, Pope, Swift, Young, Akenside, Gray, Goldsmith, Falconer, Trumbull, Crabbe, Combe, H. K. White, Rogers, Keats, Ainsworth, C² S²
controller [comptroller] Bailey, W C S
coquet [coquette] Gay, Young, Goldsmith, W C S (v)
criticize [criticise] Milton, Dryden, Bolingbroke, W C S
cropt [cropped] Spenser, Shakespeare, Bible (1611), Milton, Butler, Pope, Swift, Young, Franklin, Combe, Lamb, C²
crost [crossed] Spenser, Lodge, Puttenham, Sidney, Shakespeare, Selden, Bunyan, Cowley, Dryden, Prior, Pope, Swift, Watts, Goldsmith, Falconer, Trumbull, Crabbe, Combe, Burns, Scott, Keats, Ainsworth, Tennyson, Lowell
crusht [crushed] Spenser, Sylvester, Bible (1611), Milton, Fuller, Bunyan, Defoe, Burns
cue [queue] W C S
curst [cursed, *one syllable*] Spenser, Puttenham, Shakespeare, Bunyan, Cowley, Dryden, Addison, Pope, Watts, Young, Shenstone, Goldsmith, Burns, Lamb, J. G. Holland, W² C² S²
cutlas [cutlass] C S
cyclopedia [cyclopaedia, cyclopædia] Hobbes, W C S
dactyl [dactyle] Bailey, Scott, W C S
dasht [dashed] Spenser, Shakespeare, Cotgrave, Hall, Milton
decalog [decalogue] P NEA
defense [defence] Raleigh, Bailey, Law, Meredith, W C S
demagog [demagogue] P NEA
demeanor [demeanour] Spenser, Niccols, Evelyn, W C S
deposit [deposite] Young, W C S
deprest [depressed] Higgins, Milton, Gray, Burns
develop [develope] W C S
dieresis [diaeresis, diæresis] W² C S
dike [dyke] Sylvester, Evelyn, Cowley, Goldsmith, W C S
dipt [dipped] Spenser, Shakespeare, Sylvester, Bible (1611), Milton, Fuller, Sir T. Browne, Butler, Dryden, Tate, Pope, Gray, Shenstone, Scott, Rogers, Keats, Tennyson, Lowell, S²
discust [discussed] Butler, Stephens, P
dispatch [despatch] Sylvester, Hooker, Raleigh, Jonson, Bacon, Milton, Fuller, Butler, Blackstone, etc., W C² S²
distil [distill] Falconer, Walker, Lowell, W² C S
distrest [distressed] Lodge, Raleigh, Milton, Cowley, Watts, Thirlwall, Thomson, Goldsmith, Falconer, Burns, Lowell
dolor [dolour] Kendall (1577), Spenser, Shakespeare, W C S

domicil [domicile] Mansfield, Sir W. Jones, W C² S
draft [draught] Spenser, Dampier, Defoe, Mitford, W C S
dram [drachm] Spenser, Shakespeare, Jonson, Cotgrave, Blount, Bunyan, Swift, Defoe, Franklin, W C S
drest [dressed] Lodge, Sidney, Spenser, Shakespeare, Florio, Sylvester, Herrick, Bunyan, Butler, Dryden, Prior, Pope, Watts, Thomson, Shenstone, Gray, Akenside, Goldsmith, Falconer, Franklin, Burns, Cowper, Bloomfield, Coleridge, Keats, Lamb, Hood, Saxe, Tennyson, Lowell, W² C² S²
dript [dripped] Hacket
droopt [drooped] Dekker, Tennyson
dropt [dropped] Sackville, Shakespeare, Jonson, Milton, Cowley, Taylor, Butler, Dryden, Prior, Pope, Swift, Young, Richardson, Shenstone, Franklin, Burns, Scott, Crabbe, Coleridge, Jane Austen, Rogers, Campbell, Whewell, Landor, Hood, Saxe, Tennyson, Swinburne, Locker, Lowell, Lytton, W² S²
dulness [dullness] Shakespeare, Pope, Thomson, Johnson, W² C S
ecumenical [oecumenical, œcumenical] W C S
edile [aedile, ædile] Walker, W² C S
egis [aegis, ægis] W² C² S
enamor [enamour] Lodge, Sylvester, W C S
encyclopedia [encyclopaedia, encyclopædia] W C S
endeavor [endeavour] Puttenham, W C S (*endevor*: Mitford)
envelop [envelope] Spenser, Jane Austen, W C S
Eolian [Aeolian, Æolian] Niccols, E. Darwin, W² C² S
eon [aeon, æon] W C S
epaulet [epaulette] Mason, Thackeray, W C S
eponym [eponyme] Grote, W C S
era [aera, æra] Mitford, Byron, Carlyle, Kingsley, etc., W C S
esophagus [oesophagus, œsophagus] W C S
esthetic [aesthetic, æsthetic] A. J. Ellis (1871), W² C S
esthetics [aesthetics, æsthetics] W² C S
estivate [aestivate, æstivate] W² C S
ether [aether, æther] Cowper, Scott, Longfellow, W C S
etiology [aetiology, ætiology] Walker, W² C S
exorcize [exorcise] Quarles, Henry More, Bailey, C² S
exprest [expressed] Knox, Spenser, Shakespeare, Chapman, Heywood, Selden, Ussher, Milton, Walton, Wilkins, Henry More, Butler, Dryden, Tate, Prior, Pope, Swift, Watts, Fielding, Goldsmith, Falconer, Cowper, Lowell, Roby, Sweet
fagot [faggot] Latimer, Cotgrave, Goldsmith, Emerson, W C S
fantasm [phantasm] Cotgrave, Milton, Lower (1658), Sheridan², Walker², W² C²

fantasy [phantasy] Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Chapman, Camden, Walker, Carlyle, Dickens, Lowell, W C S
fantom [phantom] Stevens, W² C² S (Middle English *fantom*)
favor [favour] Shakespeare, Lodge, Bunyan, Trumbull, W C S
favorite [favourite] Camden, Byron, Wordsworth, W C S
fervor [fervour] Purchas, Rogers, Mitford, Shelley, W C S
fiber [fibre] Sir T. Browne, Evelyn, W C S
fixt [fixed] Spenser, Sylvester, Shakespeare, Sir T. Herbert, Denham, Milton, Walton, Cowley, Butler, Bunyan, Dryden, Prior, Swift, Young, Thomson, Cowper, Rogers, Thirlwall
flavor [flavour] Milton, Dryden, W C S
fulfil [fulfill] Lodge, Watts, Burns, Tennyson, Lowell, W² C S
fulness [fullness] Bacon, Milton, Howell, Shelley, W² C S
gage [gauge] North, Shakespeare, Fuller, Pope, W² C S
gazel [gazelle] Kersey, Bailey, Irving, W² C S
gelatin [gelatine] W C S
gild [guild] Phillips, L. T. Smith ('English Gilds'), etc., C S
gipsy [gypsy] Shakespeare, Milton, Addison, Bailey, Sheridan, Walker, Ruskin, Matthew Arnold, W² C S
gloze [glose] Hooker, Shakespeare, Scott, Hood, etc., W C S
glycerin [glycerine] W C S
good-by [good-bye] W C S
gram [gramme] W C S
gript [gripped] Spenser, Milton, Tennyson, Hall Caine, P
harbor [harbour] Lodge, Bunyan, Mitford, W C S
harken [hearken] Latimer, Prior, Tennyson, Swinburne, W² C S
heapt [heaped] Spenser, Shakespeare, Jonson, Milton, Lowell
hematin [haematin, hæmatin] W C S
hiccup [hiccough] Salmon, Nares², Baring-Gould, W² C S (*hickup*: Cotgrave, Butler, Walker²; *hiccop*, *hickop*, etc.)
hock [hough] Bailey, Sheridan, Walker, W C S
homeopathy [homoeopathy, homœopathy] W C S
homonym [homonyme] W C S
honor [honour] Ascham, Spenser, Lodge, Shakespeare, Sylvester, Chapman, Bacon, Jonson, Bible (1611), Selden, Cowley, Prior, Chesterfield, Mitford, Coleridge, etc., W C S
humor [humour] Spenser, Lodge, Shakespeare, Raleigh, Cotgrave, Howell, Milton, Burnet, Franklin, W C S
husht [hushed] Shakespeare, Dryden, Young, Wilson, Lytton
hypotenuse [hypothenuse] Cudworth, Walker, W C S
idolize [idolise] Sylvester, Gale, Bailey, Walker, W C S
imprest [impressed] Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Watts, Burns, Cary, H. K. White, Rogers. Hood

instil [instill] Bailey, Thomson, Rogers, W C S
jail [gaol] Milton, Bailey, Scott, Emerson, etc., W C S
judgment [judgement] Baret, Milton, Raleigh, Bacon, Cowley, Walton, Bunyan, Addison, Watts, Berkeley, Blackstone, 'New England Primer,' Jane Austen, Rogers, W C S
kist [kissed] Puttenham, Spenser, Lodge, Shakespeare, Jonson, Selden, Milton, Cowley, Goldsmith, Keats, Lamb, Tennyson
labor [labour] North, Bacon, Butler, Bunyan, Prior, Mitford, W C S
lacrimal [lacrymal, lachrymal] S
lapt [lapped] Hooker, Shakespeare, Clare, Tennyson, Lowell
lasht [lashed] Spenser, Shakespeare, Middleton, Quarles, Cowley
leapt [leaped] Lodge, Spenser, Shakespeare, Jonson, Raleigh, Milton, Cowley, Addison, Collins, Wordsworth, Hood, Tennyson, Swinburne, Lowell, W² C² S² (In Great Britain the form *leapt* is commonly pronounced 'lept.' The spelling *lept* occurs in Tyndale, Spenser, Raleigh, etc.)
legalize [legalise] Walker, Burke, W C S
license [licence] Latimer, Massinger, Steele, Defoe, Prior, Gray, Richardson, Scott, Emerson, Browning, etc., W C S
licorice [liquorice] Bailey, Walker, Tennyson, W C S
liter [litre] W C S
lodgment [lodgement] Pope, Irving, Thackeray, W C S
lookt [looked] Puttenham, Lodge, Spenser, Sidney, Shakespeare, Jonson, Milton, Butler, Bunyan, Burnet, Defoe
lopt [lopped] Shakespeare, Jonson, Milton, Young
luster [lustre] Shakespeare, Bailey, W C S
mama [mamma] Gay, Vanbrugh, Goldsmith, Dickens, W² C S
maneuver [manœuvre] W C S
materialize [materialise] Walker, W C S
meager [meagre] Shakespeare, Dekker, Cowley, Phillips, W C S
medieval [mediaeval, mediæval] Lower, Stubbs, W C S
meter [metre] Robinson, Puttenham, W C S (*meeter*: Puttenham, Camden, Milton, Butler)
mist [missed] Spenser, Puttenham, Shakespeare, Lodge, Jonson, Walton, Cowley, Bunyan, Lowell
miter [mitre] Raleigh, Purchas, Jeremy Taylor, Garth, W C S
mixt [mixed] Latimer, Puttenham, Sidney, Lodge, Spenser, Sylvester, Bible (1611), Shakespeare, Jonson, Bacon, Milton, Walton, Cowley, Butler, Bunyan, Ray, Prior, Addison, Watts, Pope, Young, Shenstone, Cowper, Trumbull, Bloomfield, S²
mold [mould] Spenser, Lodge, Sylvester, Evelyn, Wilkins, Cowley, Butler, South, J. Phillips, Bailey², W C S
molder [moulder] Bailey², W C S

molding [moulding] W C S
moldy [mouldy] W C S
molt [moult] W C S
mullen [mullein] W² C³
naturalize [naturalise] Bailey, Walker, W C S
neighbor [neighbour] Latimer, W C S
nipt [nipped] Spenser, Shakespeare, Pope, Falconer, Bloomfield Scott, Keats, Shelley, *Athenæum* (1907, Feb. 23, p. 220)
niter [nitre] Cotgrave, Minsheu, Bacon, Gale (1676), W C S
ocher [ochre] W C S (*oker*: Florio, Cotgrave, Minsheu, Wilkins)
odor [odour] Holland, Cotgrave, Sir T. Browne, W C S
offense [offence] Holinshed, W C S
omelet [omelette] Cotgrave, Bailey, Hawthorn, W C S
opprest [oppressed] Sackville, Spenser, Jonson, Raleigh, Milton, Wotton, Cowley, Butler, Dryden, Prior, Watts, Pope, Thomson, Goldsmith, Falconer, Trumbull, Burns, Bloomfield, Combe, Crabbe, Byron, Keats, Lamb, Hood, Tennyson
orthopedic [orthopaedic, orthopædic] W C S
paleography [palaeography, palæography] W C S
paleolithic [palaeolithic, palæolithic] W C S
paleontology [palaeontology, palæontology] W C S
paleozoic [palaeozoic, palæozoic] W C S
paraffin [paraffine] W C S
parlor [parlour] Hooker, Hall, Bailey, W C S
partizan [partisan] Sylvester, Daniel, Young, Mitford, W² C S
past [passed, *pret.* and *p. p.*] Lodge, Spenser, Shakespeare, Sylvester, Raleigh, Cowley, Butler, Dryden, Prior, Watts, Pope, Young, Lowth, Goldsmith, Falconer, Burns, Crabbe, Tennyson, Fitzgerald, W² C² S³ (This spelling is universal in certain uses, as 'the past week,' 'in the past,' etc.)
patronize [patronise] Spenser, Young, Mitford, W C S
pedagog [paedagogue, pædagogue] P NEA
pedobaptist [paedobaptist, pædobaptist] Johnson, W C S
phenix [phoenix, phœnix] Latimer, Lodge, Prior, Lye, Wesley, W C S (Anglo-Saxon and Middle English *fenix*)
phenomenon [phaenomenon, phænomenon] Bacon, Falconer, Sir T. Browne, Defoe, Mitford, Whewell, Dickens, W C S
pigmy [pygmy] Shakespeare, Heylyn, Walker, Keats, W² C S
plow [plough] Capgrave, Tyndale, Latimer, Sylvester, Bible (1611), Cotgrave, Cowley, Butler, Addison, W C S
polyp [polype] W C S

possest [possessed] Sidney, Spenser, Shakespeare, Jonson, Sylvester, Hooker, Raleigh, Milton, Wotton, Fuller, Walton, Cowley, Butler, Bunyan, Addison, Watts, Swift, Pope, Young, Gray, Goldsmith, Bloomfield, Rogers, Lamb, Lowell

practise [practice, v. and n.] Baret (1573), Jonson, Bacon, Camden, Raleigh, Sir T. Browne, Fuller, Walton, Butler, Bunyan, Watts, Mitford, W^2 C (v.) S

prefixt [prefixed] Milton, Mason (1800), P

prenomen [praenomen, prænomen] W^2 C S

prest [pressed] Spenser, Sylvester, Raleigh, Milton, Walton, Cowley, Butler, Bunyan, Dryden, Pope, Shenstone, Goldsmith, Falconer, Burns, Crabbe, Keats, Hood, Ainsworth, Bulwer, Tennyson, Swinburne, Fitzgerald, Lowell, C^2

pretense [pretence] Spenser, Milton, W C S

preterit [preterite, praeterite, præterite] Walker, W C S

pretermit [praetermit, prætermit] Heylyn, Walker, W C S

primeval [primaeval, primæval] Bailey, Hood, W C S

profest [professed] Spenser, Shakespeare, Jonson, Drayton, Raleigh, Selden, Butler, Pope, Watts, Fielding, Lamb

program [programme] Records of the University of Aberdeen (1690, 1711), Scott, Ellis, Sweet, C S

prolog [prologue] Furnivall, P NEA (*prologe, prologge*: Tyndale)

propt [propped] Levins, Sylvester, Butler, Dryden, Pope, Walker (1775), Burns, Frere, Lamb, Tennyson, Lowell

pur [purr] Shakespeare, W C^2 S

quartet [quartette] Hallam, Thackeray, Grove, W C S

questor [quaestor, quæstor] Bailey, W C S

quintet [quintette] W C S

rancor [rancour] Shakespeare, Camden, Milton, Butler, W C S

rapt [rapped, 'hit'] Cotgrave, Keats, P

raze [rase] Sylvester, Shakespeare, Cotgrave, Bailey, W C S

recognize [recognise] Cotgrave, W C S

reconnoiter [reconnoitre] Cotgrave, W C S

rigor [rigour] Reginald Scot, Hooker, Milton, Prior, W C S

rime [rhyme] Kendall (1577), Puttenham, Spenser, Shakespeare, Florio, Cotgrave, Minsheu, Milton, Coleridge, W C S

ript [ripped] Latimer, Lodge, Shakespeare, Phillips, Cowper

rumor [rumour] North, Cotgrave, Milton, Mitford, W C S

saber [sabre] W C S

saltpeter [saltpetre] Reginald Scot, Shakespeare, Evelyn

savior [saviour] Latimer, Hooker, W C S

savor [savour] Shakespeare, Cotgrave, W C S

scepter [sceptre] Spenser, Sylvester, Jonson, Hooker, Cotgrave, Minsheu, Howell, Gauden, Cowley, W C S

septet [septette] W C S

sepulcher [sepulchre] Shakespeare, Puttenham, Bunyan, W C S

sextet [sextette] W C S

silvan [sylvan] Churchill, Walker, Scott, Irving, W C^2

simitar [scimitar, cimeter, etc.] Minsheu^2, Walker^2, W^2 C S

sipt [sipped] Lamb, Tennyson

sithe [scythe] Milton, Ray, Stevens (1706), Bailey (1733), Johnson (1755), Walker (1775, 1791), Sheridan (1780), Nares (1784), Mitford, Worcester^2, W^2 C^2 S^2 (*sythe*: Shakespeare, Sylvester, Hooker, Pope, Herrick; *sith*: Minsheu, Cowley)

skilful [skillful] Sylvester, Butler, Burnet, Thomson, W^2 C S

skipt [skipped] Shakespeare, Milton, Butler

slipt [slipped] Spenser, Lodge, Shakespeare, Hooker, Jonson, Cowley, Prior, Lamb, Hood, Tennyson, Locker, Lowell, S^2

smolder [smoulder] Palsgrave, W C S

snapt [snapped] Shakespeare, Butler, Pope, Lowth, Franklin, Boswell, Coleridge, Keightley, Tennyson, Lowell, S^2

somber [sombre] W C S

specter [spectre] W C S

splendor [splendour] Sylvester, Young, Blackstone, W C S

stedfast [steadfast] Spenser, Sylvester, Bible (1611, 1906), Milton, Butler, Bunyan, Thomson, Shenstone, W^2 C^2

stept [stepped] Latimer, Sidney, Spenser, Lodge, Sylvester, Milton, Cowley, Bunyan, Dryden, Defoe, Swift, Pope, Goldsmith, Burns, Scott, Keats, Hood, Carlyle, Tennyson, S^2

stopt [stopped] Latimer, Levins, Sidney, Spenser, Lodge, Shakespeare, Sylvester, Milton, Cowley, Swift, Watts, Pope, Berkeley, Thomson, Goldsmith, Franklin, Bloomfield, Scott, Rogers, Combe, Jane Austen, Tennyson

strest [stressed] Sackville, Sweet, P

stript [stripped] Shakespeare, Wither, Fuller, Bunyan, Swift, Pope, Berkeley, Richardson, Shenstone, Goldsmith, Falconer, Burns, Scott, Roscoe, Lamb, Tennyson, Swinburne, Lowell, S^2

subpena [subpoena, subpœna] W^2 C^2

succor [succour] W C S

suffixt [suffixed] P

sulfate [sulphate] P S

sulfur [sulphur] Gale (1676), P S (*sulfer*: Howell)

sumac [sumach] W C S

suppress [suppressed] Spenser, Hooker, Sylvester, Jonson, Milton, Fuller, Cowley, Butler, Prior, Pope, Falconer, Rogers

surprize [surprise] Spenser, Fuller, Evelyn, Defoe, Watts, Thomson, Goldsmith, Franklin, Boswell, Rogers, Jane Austen

synonym [synonyme] W C S

tabor [tabour] Shakespeare, Butler, Bailey, Wordsworth, W C S
tapt [tapped] Shakespeare, Tennyson, P
teazel [teasel, teazle, teasle] W² C S
tenor [tenour] Spenser, Cotgrave, Milton, Cudworth, W C S
theater [theatre] Puttenham, Sylvester, Shakespeare, Jonson, Stow, Florio, Evelyn, Dryden, Young, Mitford, W C S
tho [though] Chapman, Marston, Sir T. Browne, Dryden, Evelyn, Wilkins, Bunyan, Burnet, Tate, Congreve; 'Poems on affairs of state' (1703-07); Stevens (1706), Mallet, Walpole, Ash (1775), Sheridan (1780), Webster (1806), Mitford, Stephens, P NEA
tho': Evelyn, Bunyan, Dryden, Burnet, Tate, Farquhar, Addison, Prior, Watts, Pope, Defoe, Bailey, Thomson, Young, Shenstone, Collins, Gray, Goldsmith, Johnson, 'New England Primer,' Franklin, Walker (1791), Trumbull, Burns, Bloomfield, Combe, Lamb, Rogers, Hood, Tennyson
thoro [thorough] NEA (*thoro'*, not common; *thorow*: Tyndale, Hooker, Shakespeare, Joseph Hall, Bacon, Fuller, Butler, Defoe; *thuro*: P 1881, 1886)
thorofare [thoroughfare] NEA (*thorow-fare*: Defoe)
thoroly [thoroughly] NEA (*thorowly*: Hooker, Fuller)
thru [through] P (1881, 1886) NEA (1898). In renditions of dialect: Lowell, 'Biglow papers,' first series, 1848; second series, 1866; Wright, 'English dialect grammar,' 1905, etc. *thro*: Burnet; 'Poems on affairs of state' (1703-07); Thomson, Shenstone, Mallet, Stephens. The written form *thro* was commonly printed *thro'* in the eighteenth century.
thro': Evelyn, Howell, Phillips, Prior, Watts, Pope, Somervile, Young, Thomson, Collins, Gray, Franklin, Burns, Bloomfield, Keats, Lamb, Rogers, Hood, Praed, Tennyson
thruout [throughout] P NEA (*thro-out*: 1711; *thro'out*: 1737)
tipt [tipped] Spenser, Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Swift, Rogers
topt [topped] Shakespeare, Sandys, Milton, Bloomfield, S²
tost [tossed] Latimer, Puttenham, Spenser, Chapman, Shakespeare, Milton, Cowley, Butler, Dryden, Ray, Prior, Addison, Swift, Watts, Pope, Thomson, Walker (1775), Burns, Cowper, Crabbe, Keats, Saxe, Whittier, Lowell, W² C² S²
transgrest [transgressed] Shakespeare, Hooker
trapt [trapped] Lodge, Shakespeare, Tennyson, P
tript [tripped] Lodge, Shakespeare, Butler, Dryden, Shenstone, Landor, Lowell, Locker
tumor [tumour] Holland, Sylvester, Sir T. Herbert, W C S
valor [valour] Greene, Peacham, Rowe, Mitford, W C S
vapor [vapour] North, Jonson, Sandys, Sir T. Browne, W C S

vext [vexed] Shakespeare, Selden, Milton, Cowley, Butler, Prior, Swift, Watts, Tennyson, Pope, Thomson, Jane Austen, Keats, Hood, Tennyson, Longfellow, Lowell
vigor [vigour] Sidney, Holland, Sir T. Browne, Mitford, W C S
vizor [visor] Sylvester, W C S
wagon [waggon] Spenser, Shakespeare, W C S
washt [washed] Spenser, Puttenham, Shakespeare, Hooker, Florio, Quarles, Walton, Cowley, Burnet, Watts
whipt [whipped] Sackville, Shakespeare, Jonson, Wither, Milton, Fuller, Butler, Swift, Pope, Scott, Hood, Reade, P
whisky [whiskey] Burns, W C S
wilful [willful] Shakespeare, Bailey, W² C S (*wilfull*: Spenser, etc.)
winkt [winked] P
wisht [wished] Sidney, Lodge, Spenser, Hooker, Shakespeare, Chapman, Jonson, Milton, Cowley, Young
wo [woe] Latimer, Sylvester, Cowley, Praed, Thackeray, W² C² S
woful [woeful] Bailey, W² C² S (*wofull*: Spenser, Shakespeare)
woolen [woollen] W C S
wrapt [wrapped] Spenser, Sidney, Sylvester, Jonson, Milton, Fuller, Cowley, Dryden, Bunyan, Pope, Defoe, Thomson, Young, Falconer, Cowper, Burns, Crabbe, Scott, Jane Austen, Praed, Lowell, Fitzgerald, Reade, Fiske, W² C² S²

It will be seen that of the three hundred simpler forms included in the List, more than one-half are preferred by Webster's dictionary, more than six-tenths are preferred by the Century dictionary, and two-thirds are preferred by the Standard; while nearly all the rest are allowed by all three dictionaries as alternativ spellings in good usage.

And if the authority of the dictionaries is not sufficient, why not accept the authority of the greatest names in English literature?

It should be borne in mind that the simpler forms here cited are only a few out of the large number that appear in the authors mentioned. The proof is abundant. No one who reads the original editions can dispute it. It is only by altering the text of the older authors that the proof is obscured. This is notably so in respect to the simpler forms like *blest*, *prest*, *dript*, *dropt*, *stept*, *stopt*, etc. Such preterit forms in *-t* were for a long period normal and familiar; and that not only in verse, but also in prose. They were not, as some have imagined, confined to verse, as a sort of "poetic license." Poets used the *-t* forms as a matter of course. When, in verse, they used the *-ed* forms of words which they knew to be commonly pronounced and spelled with *-t*, they were employing, for poetic reasons, forms then becoming archaic; and they meant

the words spelled with *-ed* to be pronounced -ed, not -d or -t. Thus, they wrote *blest, dropt,* as the normal prose and verse forms; and *blessed, dropped,* when the meter required an other syllable.

The rule was formally recognized by grammarians and lexicographers. In 1570, Peter Levins, in a school dictionary which he called *Manipulus vocabulorum* ('A handful of words') and which was concerned mainly with spelling and rime, gives the rule: "This termination *opt* is written for *opped,* in the participles of the preter tense: as *stopt* for *stopped, lopt* for *lopped, propt* for *propped,* etc." (1570 LEVINS, *Manipulus vocabulorum* (reprinted 1867), col. 169). He makes a similar statement as to *apt,* or *apte* for *apped,* "as *capte* for *capped, hapte* for *happed*" (col. 28).

It was in accordance with this principle of simplification that the popular books of that generation were printed. 'The Whole Booke of Psalmes' of Sternhold and Hopkins, the ballads, the broadsides, the letters of the time, all abound in these neat and pleasing forms. 'The Mirror for Magistrates,' a very popular series of versified legends and biographies (1559, 1575, 1587, etc.), contains a host of them; the fastidious Puttenham ('Arte of English Poesie,' 1589) accepts them, and their appearance in Spenser, Shakespeare, Jonson, Bacon, Raleigh, and the rest, was no innovation, but was the accepted usage of the age. Beside the forms mentioned in the list, Spenser (1579, 1590, 1596) has *askt, deckt, laught, launcht, purchast,* and the like, in endless profusion. The Shakespeare instances appear on every page of the original text and of exact reprints. Ben Jonson ('Workes,' 1616) has *askt, clickt, helpt, laught, markt, pickt, rackt, shipt, walkt,* etc. Raleigh ('History of the World,' 1614) has *checkt, dismist, dispatcht, laught, lockt, sackt, stuft,* etc. Milton, Fuller, Bunyan, Cowley, Butler, Dryden, Addison, Pope, Thomson, Goldsmith, and all their contemporaries, use the like, and like forms are frequent in Scott, Keats, Lamb, Landor, Tennyson, and other modern writers.

Surely, the common or frequent use of a spelling (in itself entirely correct and regular) by nearly all the standard authors of English literature justifies its acceptance or resumption by present writers, even if the dictionaries and spelling-books may happen to neglect or ignore it. The only reasons that can be given for preferring a particular spelling are the scientific reason, that it records the actual pronunciation, and the literary reason, that it represents literary usage. When both reasons apply to a spelling, what reason is there for rejecting it?

THE SIMPLIFIED SPELLING BOARD

1 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK
November 28, 1907